

## The Genesis and Purpose of Man

**Proverbs 19:21** “Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

- It is essential for us to come into agreement with God’s purpose and intention for our lives. Too many of us are trying to live life our way and we are struggling and frustrated because of it. The Bible clearly points out from beginning to end that God is intentional and methodical in everything He does. In other words, God had a plan and purpose in mind when He created us. God did not intend for us to be created so that we would rebel and neglect the very reason for our existence. God did not intend for us to live a life apart from him—a life lacking true meaning, rhyme and reason.
- There is a powerful quote by Myles Munroe and it says, “**When purpose is unknown, abuse is inevitable.**” In other words, if a person lives life lacking purpose, and lacking the intention for why it was created and placed in this world, that person is eventually going to abuse their life. Many us are struggling BIG TIME because we are guessing at life. We are clueless as to why we are here and we are oblivious to our divine purpose and call in life. How many of you can honestly say I know why I exist? How many of you can truthfully say I know my purpose in life?
- Purpose is an awesome word and it is a word that is applicable to many aspects. For example, a woman needs to know her purpose as woman, a mother, sister, friend or wife. Likewise the man too needs to know his purpose as husband, brother, companion and father. Every aspect of life demands purpose. There is a purpose for money, a purpose for food and a purpose for everything else in and outside of this world we called earth. *The key strategy to prospering and living a life of excellence in this earth is to discover purpose. When purpose is understood and applied, success is inevitable and abuse avoided.*
- It is vital to know and understand purpose as it is revealed in Scripture. When we take a closer look into the creation account of man within the book of Genesis, we discover God’s original intention [that is His purpose] for man.

### 1) You were created to Express God’s Image

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image...”

- One of the first purposes of man is for man to express the image of God in the earth. The word image in this text comes from a Hebrew word meaning to shade, copy or picture. God’s original intention for man was for him to be a picture of God for all to see. In other words, if you took a look at man you would in a sense behold a mirror of God’s nature and character.
- When we begin to understand the image of God as it relates to us, it is imperative that we are careful to not make the image of God into a physical image. The image of God in us is not a physical image in any way. The true image of God is a



- spiritual image, nature and character. We can't walk down the street and say, "Hey, I just saw god—he was 6 feet tall and dark complexion." The image of God is not found in physical or external appearances.
- The true image of God is expressed in the personality and character of people not in physical appearances. When you see a person forgiving another, then you can say you saw God. When you see a man truly loving his wife as Christ loved the church, then you can say you saw the image of God.
  - God's first purpose for us is simple...God wants us to act like Him in the earth. God's original intention for us was for everyone to simply imitate His ways on earth as they are in heaven. If God creates in heaven then we should create on earth. If God loves in heaven then we should love on earth. If God defeated satan in heaven then we should defeat satan on earth. If God refuses to tolerate ignorance and evil, then we should do the same. If God doesn't want the enemy in his house then we should want the same and not want the enemy in our houses also.
  - God's ultimate purpose is for us to mirror His character. God fashioned each and every person uniquely so that they could be both original in that they are different from anyone else on earth but more importantly so that they would have the capacity to express the image of God within their own uniqueness.
  - God according to **1 John 4:8** is the essence of love or the essence of God is love. No matter which way you flip it--plainly put God is Love. Hence if you wanted to paint a picture in your mind as to what the image of God looks like and sound like you would simply look at true love.
  - In **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**, perfect love is described. If we read this passage substituting God for love, we read...
 

God is patient. God is kind. He does not envy, He does not boast, He is not proud. God is not rude, He is not self-seeking, He is not easily angered, and He keeps no record of wrongs. God does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. God always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. God never fails.
  - God created us to live, look and act like this. God's desire and purpose is for us to express His image and character of love. God doesn't just want us looking like love but He wants us to be love. Don't look the part be the part. Be who God has made you to be. Be the love and image of God to someone on earth.

## 2) You were created to Enjoy Fellowship with God

Fellowship? What do I mean by fellowship? Fellowship is companionship, friendship and the sharing of common interests, goals, experiences or views. In the beginning before sin disrupted and stained the pure relationship God had with Adam, both man and woman shared the same interests, goals, desires, experiences and views as God. In the beginning man's view about the way he should live life was not in conflict or contrast with God's view. Man also didn't have different desires or interests than God. Rather



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both God and man's views and interests were in harmony. Before sin was introduced, man always consulted and agreed with God about what should and shouldn't be done.

Now today, everything as it was in the beginning is quite contrary to the way God originally intended. Today men are born in this world already predisposed to the nature and tendency to fight against what God desires for them. Everywhere you go people are in conflict with the will of God for their lives. There are very few of us who are actually willing to live our lives in a manner that is common and in harmony with the intentions, desires, goals and plans of God.

Now more than ever there is a call from heaven for all, both men and women to come back to the heart of God. There is a call for us to reconnect with our Creator and our God, so that we can experience the joys of living a life that is both meaningful and purposeful. We mustn't forget that it is only God who has, knows and understands the questions and answers related to why we exist and what on earth are we here for. Therefore it is essential for all of us to hunger and thirst for His presence, that we may embrace His ways, His desires, His views and friendship—for truly this is our purpose and the reason for which we have been made and it is for each one of us to enjoy fellowship with our Creator.

### **Genesis 3:8-9**

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'

- In the beginning, I am speaking about before the fall; God's original desire and purpose was for us to enjoy fellowship with God daily. Genesis 3 gives us invaluable insight in that it paints a picture of an intimate and daily relationship developing between both man and God.
- In **Genesis 2-3** we find God communicating with man. What is even more interesting is that God and man communicated and fellowshiped on earth rather than in heaven. How often did God and man fellowship? It would seem to me that it was often. God had several conversations and dealings with man that were all progressive in nature. [God talked to man about what to do and what not to do. God showed him his work. God talked to him about his mate. God presented to him his mate. God walked in the garden to see where man was and what He would be doing. God daily wanted to know how man was doing and what were his thoughts.]
- Believe it or not, God was really into man and man into God. No other created living thing on earth but man had the privilege of enjoying fellowship and companionship with God.
- Out of all of God's creation, man alone was made in the image and likeness of God and man alone was given the breath of life directly from the mouth of God. This breath of life that God gave man in Genesis 2:7 was the very element that made man a living soul and spirit. It is because of spirit that man was and is able to enjoy fellowship with God. This is why Jesus states in **John 4:24**, "God is Spirit and they who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."



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- The sad thing today is that because of man's disobedience in the beginning, man's desire for fellowship with God has changed because of sin and perversion. God's purposes for man has never changed but the conditions in which they are to be met have changed. It is because of sin and disobedience that man hid himself from God. Before sin, the atmosphere and conditions were such that man ran to God when he knew that God was in the garden. Now that sin is in the picture, man has trouble fulfilling his purpose in life.
- The first purpose is for us to express the image of God and the second purpose is for us to enjoy fellowship with God. However because of sin, both purposes are difficult to fulfilled. How or why? It is because sin taints the image of God by painting lust on it. Secondly, sin leads us away from God rather than to God.
- The need for redemption of mankind is a need for everyone to be born again and a need for us to made over again. The reasons for Jesus coming in the world is for him to one, show us how to live properly, correctly and righteously; and secondly, Jesus came to restore all things that were lost (including the purposes of God) back to men. In Christ Jesus, we are once again able to realize every purpose God had originally intended for us to walk into. This is why **2 Corinthians 5:17** says, "Therefore is any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

### 3) You were created for Dominion

**Genesis 1:26** "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

- **Dominion** – ruling power, authority, or control. Somebody's area of influence or control.
- **There is a call for us to have ruling power, authority and control over earth. Everyone created in the image of God has been given a specific area of influence and control.**
- True Dominion consists of walking in power, authority so that you can have influence and control.
- Dominion = Power + Authority = Control = Influence

#### God gave us Power

**2 Timothy 1:7** "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."

- God has given us a spirit of power—not of fear but super-ability to be capable of exercising control over sin, feelings, spiritual wickedness, etc.

**Ephesians 1:19** "And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the workings of His mighty strength."

- Faith is a must and it is necessary in order for us to experience and tap into the power of God given to the sons and daughters of God.



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**Colossians 1:11** “We pray that you may be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, to exercise every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance with joy.)

- The power that has been given to us by God has the potential to extend that of anything we have ever seen any man demonstrate. If you look at the Scripture, it says that God places in us power according to His glory—not the glory of a man or angel.

### **He has given unto us Authority**

Luke 9:1 “Jesus called his disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases.”

**Psalm 8:5-8** “For You have made him [man] a little lower than [Elohim] and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen—even the bests of the field, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.

- Believe it or not, God designed us with the exceptional ability to exercise dominion over the entire earth. The only limit God placed on our dominion was that God never intended for us to exercise dominion over another human being. God’s desire has always been clear within Scripture as to how He wanted us to rule and what He wanted us to rule over. God created us to have dominion over all living animals, organisms and all creeping things that creeps on the earth. I believe that evil spirits, demonic forces and satan would fall into this category. I know there may be some debate about what God meant when He said in Genesis 1:26 that man should exercise dominion over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth but my view is that all Scripture should be in agreement with one another and in Luke 9:1, Jesus was very clear that He intended for those who followed Him to exercise “...*power and authority over all demons/evil spirits.*”
- If you look up the word dominion in the Hebrew, it means to **rule or tread upon**. In **Luke 10:19**, Jesus said, “Behold, I give unto you power to **tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**” If Scripture is in agreement and consistent, truly God intended for us in the beginning to exercise dominion over even the evil spirits and demonic forces in this world. In other words, God’s gift of dominion to man is for us to look and act like God. If God kicked satan out of heaven (which He did according to Luke 10:18) we too, should kick satan out of our delegated place of dominion. God’s intention for sharing His authority and dominion with us was for us to live like God and if that meant dealing with the enemy in the garden when faced with adversity and temptation—the appropriate response was and is still today for us to exercise dominion over everything that would keep us from fulfilling and pursuing our God-given-purpose.

**Genesis 4:7** “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”



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- God created us to exercise dominion over the desires of sin and its potential to capture, weaken or defeat. For us to do well in the eyesight of God—we must function in the purposes and plans God pre-destined and designed for us to rule and dominate.
- Because sin is active in the world, it is vital for everyone to embrace the image of God. It is crucial for everyone to unite with God in fellowship. When the image of God is embraced and fellowship between God and man is restored, true dominion over sin, wickedness and evil spirits will be realized.
- God doesn't want men struggling with negative habits. God hates to see His kids—those who He made to have dominion over the earth, struggling and living defeated lives due to negative forces ruling them. For example, some are addicted to drugs, sex, pride, money, lust, and a host of other things and it is these things that are dominating people such to the point that they are unable to live out the purpose and will of God.
- Daily men and women are being abused because they are ignorant of their God given purpose to dominate the things of this world. In the book of **Hosea 4:6** God gives us a strong warning by saying, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you, that you should be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.” When man rejects the knowledge of God or forgets the law of God, he fails to become the leader [or priest] God intended. Inside every man and woman there is an innate ability to rule, tread upon and dominate.

#### 4) You were created to be Fruitful

**Genesis 1:28** “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be **fruitful**, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

- The fourth purpose of created man is for us to be fruitful—that is fruit-full.
- God's desire is for every person to embrace the blessing of God that is upon their life—the blessing to yield fruit synonymous with the character of God. In other words, God purpose is for everyone to bring forth things as God brings forth things. God created within us the unique ability to produce fruit like He produces fruit. When we fail to produce in the way God intends, disaster and foolishness results.
- If you plant an apple tree and then the time comes for that tree to sprout up and be all that you imagined it would be. Come harvest or picking season, if that tree lacks the fruit you desired to see, you are going to be frustrated because that tree is not living up to its purpose and potential. Can you imagine how God feels when we fail to bring forth the things God has designed us to? God has blessed us with seeded potential to produce godly fruit.

**John 15:1-5** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned for greater fruitfulness by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce



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fruit if it is severed from the vine, and **you cannot be fruitful apart from me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.**”

- Apart from God, it is impossible for man to bear God-kind of fruit. However in God and through God, man is able to produce much fruit and fulfill God’s purpose for his life.
- The way God wired man since the beginning has always been for man to stay attached and remain in God. The kinds of fruit that God intends and has always intended for man to produce are the fruit of the Spirit.
- The fruit of the Spirit are the manifestation of the workings and evidence of a God-filled, God-centered and a God-controlled life. In essence the fruit of the Spirit are an expression of the nature and character of God.

**Galatians 5:22-25** “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**”

- When man is operating in his God ordained purpose to be fruitful, man naturally expresses the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- When you get right down to it, God has programmed man to function as God functions—not just in power but also in demonstration of the Spirit. The demonstration of the Spirit is simply man submitting to his God given purpose to produce the fruit of God.
- Daily man should demonstrate love, for this is the greatest of all commandments given. Daily man should experience joy for this is the avenue God infuses man with inner strength. Daily man should walk in peace, for peace is Christ Himself—nothing ever broken or lacking. Today I believe there is a call from heaven for man to reconnect with his creator and re-discover his true purpose and calling in this life. Now more than ever God is looking for man and man is looking for God—both are looking to re-discover and uncover the truth. God is looking to uncover the true identity and purpose He originally put in man while man is looking to understand who he is and why he is and where he is.
- Yes, God knows and understands man but the question is, “Does man understand man?” God’s search is to uncover the true purpose placed in man since the beginning of time and man’s search is for the peace of knowing and understanding his purpose.

## 5) You were made for Increase

**Gen. 1:28** “**And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply.’**”

- This may be a surprise to you but believe it or not it, God has purposed for man to experience increase in every aspect of life. God’s desire is for man to walk into a place of greatness and extraordinariness. God desires for man to experience abundance in his family, job, friendships, learning/education, physical health, spiritual and mental health, and any other aspect of life.



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- If you take a closer look at the word “**multiply**,” within its Hebrew context you discover that the word “multiply” literally means be or become great, be or become much, to make large or to increase greatly or exceedingly.
- From the moment of man’s conception, God has planned for man to become great. God doesn’t want man to decrease but rather He desires for man to increase greatly by becoming exceedingly large. If you take a look at your life now you can safely say to yourself, “God wants me to increase. He wants me to become much in this earth and He also wants me to be great in all that I do for him.”

**Psalm 71:21** “You shall increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.”

- Even after greatness is achieved or perceived from those around you God still wants to increase you. The God we serve is an ever-increasing God. The God we serve is undoubtedly the God of increase. Therefore it is just and expected for us to be a people of increase—people constantly striving for excellence in all areas of life.

**Psalm 115:14** “May the Lord give you increase more and more...”

- Our prayers should be that the Father fulfills His will and purpose for us by increasing us more and more.

**Genesis 17:2** “And I will make My covenant between Me and you and will multiply you exceedingly.”

- The plan for God’s children to walk in increase is so important and essential to the purposes of God that He has lawfully set a covenant/contract in place to exceedingly multiply [increase or make great] all those who are in covenant with Him. Do you want to embrace God original plan for your life? Make Jesus the Lord over you life and start living for Him and watch the PURPOSE of GOD unfold before your very eyes.



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